

CHAUTAUQUA LECTURES

Most of the adverse criticism of Mr. Bryan and his lecture platform engagements seems to be recruited from his political opponents and enemies within his own party, who never did like him because of his progressive views. From the little that has been published pro and con, it is rather apparent that the masses of the people are not gravely concerned whether he stays in Washington or goes around the country dispensing the great truths that have brought him deserved fame. The general lassitude induced by the hot spell may be responsible for the marked indifference of the public to Mr. Bryan's private movements, but it is certain that the energy of his enemies has not been able to stir up any worthy degree of interest in the question. The popular mind refuses to be disturbed and seems content to jog along easily, heedless of whether the secretary of state is lecturing or fishing.

Mr. Bryan has announced that he is spending his legitimate vacation of one month, given to every government employ, in public lecturing. At the same time he has so arranged his itinerary that he is in close touch with Washington at all times, and can break any engagement should the urgency of his secretarial duties call him back to the capital. In this way the public business cannot suffer to any appreciable extent, so that the only real ground for condemnation is the sentimental one affecting the dignity of the office of the secretary of state. On this ground there may be legitimate ground for criticism.

But inasmuch as we are living in a democratic country and are supposed to be dominated by democratic ideals, this should not be substantial reason for the sweeping strictures hurled at Mr. Bryan by Senator Bristow of Kansas. For if Mr. Bryan is entitled to any vacation at all, he has the right to spend it in any decent and entertaining fashion he chooses. There is certainly nothing unbecoming in a man on the lecture platform. Some of the greatest minds of the generations have added to their incomes by using it as a vehicle for the expression of opinions, some of which are now regarded as classics of our modern literature.

Mr. Bryan can be properly included in the list, so that, taking the lecture incident by and large, there is something to commend and precious little to condemn in the manner the secretary of state has elected to spend his thirty days' lay-off. Anyhow, prejudiced criticisms are of mighty small value, whether directed against Mr. Bryan or anyone else of consequence.—Rocky Mountain News.

MULHALL'S DISCLOSURES

The revelations of Mulhall continue to attract the attention of the great majority of the people, and the intimation that the investigation is to be in any way restricted will not be regarded favorably by the populace.

There is but one course for the investigation committees to pursue in regard to the witness and the affairs that he is said to have knowledge of, which affect the public interest and public officials, and that is, to permit the fullest inquiry possible.

By that course abuses may be disclosed that can be eliminated in the future, and the full light of publicity upon affairs relative to national politics, national legislation and the relations, open and private, between the active men of capital and the active leaders of labor, can do no injury in the people at large, but may enable them to have more correct conceptions of men and measures.

This witness in his public disclosures has struck at many men in



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various walks of life, at all political parties, at employers of labor and at labor leaders.

His revelations have been nonpartisan, however partisan his political work may have been, and it is possible as he proceeds in his testimony that this non-partisan spirit may become more and more apparent.

It is due to the men he has accused of wrong-doing that this investigation be so searching that, if innocent, they be declared without stain, and this can only be done to their satisfaction and with the public's approval through thorough scrutiny of all evidence bearing upon the actions charged.

Mulhall's unsupported word should be accepted in not a single instance; his betrayal of his employers has placed him in the class of informers which makes it imperative for him to supply supporting evidence if he is to convince either senate or house committees or the people of the United States. The burden of proof is upon the accuser in all these matters, and that being so, while the utmost care should be taken that the names of innocent persons are not permitted to be sullied by even mention with wrong-doing, Mulhall should be allowed to submit all proper and direct evidence he may have to prove his charges.

Mulhall himself is not on trial; he has pleaded guilty to nefarious transactions, if his published statements are correct; the senate and the house committees are not assigned to this duty of investigation to convict Mulhall or any of the persons he has charged of wrong-doing nor to defend, shield or protect Mulhall or them from the effects of well-supported evidence.

Those committees are organized to ascertain the facts, and to take such action as may be rendered necessary by the facts in each and every case.

Pitiless publicity is now concentrated as much upon the investigating committees' course as it is upon Mulhall and the organizations and

the individuals he has dealt with or represented.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

HIS RECREATION

Secretary Bryan is the subject of a violent outburst of criticism because he is filling a number of lecture engagements contracted for before he became a member of President Wilson's cabinet.

The country has confidence in the integrity of Mr. Bryan and it is not ready to believe that he will cheat the government on his services. To do his best work as secretary he ought to take some time for recreation from the onerous and exacting duties of his great office. Every president and every cabinet officer leaves Washington for a few weeks during the heated term. One goes to Oyster Bay, another to Berkeley, another to Cornish, another to Yellowstone Park, another to the seashore.

Mr. Bryan goes to the chautauqua platform. It is his recreation. It is no discredit to him that he finds vast audiences eager to pay to hear his inspiring oratory. His lectures are not partisan. He is a great preacher. Every man and woman, boy and girl who hears him is the better for it. He is entitled to spend his vacation time as best suits him. He will not neglect the duties of his important office for any personal advantage.—La Follette's Magazine.

THE PEN DEADLIER THAN THE SWORD

Chicago Evening Post: Advice to Statesmen: When you feel like writing a letter, don't. It is well within the range of the doctrine of chances that Joseph Bristow wishes today that someone had been at his elbow years ago to give the foregoing advice and to insist that it be followed. In the old melodrama the wicked one, gazing at the letter that he had penned long since and lost awhile, gave his villain's oath that the man who wrote anything was an idiot. Mr. Bryan talked too much

and gave Mr. Bristow his chance to accuse him of neglect of official duties. Then out of the pigeonhole of the past was produced the epistle damning. The gentleman from Kansas had once upon a time solicited over his signature the influence which he thought would be potent to secure him a job in Panama for which he could draw pay while passing his hours in leisure on the home prairies. The Pen is deadlier than the Sword.

SENATOR HITCHCOCK'S REPLY

Senator G. M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, in response to resolutions adopted by the Sary democratic county central committee calling upon all democratic representatives to support the pending currency legislation, sent the following reply:

"I can not meet the views of your committee on this subject. I am distinctly opposed to the immediate passage of a currency bill and I have so advised the president and the committee on banking and currency of which I am a member. In fact, I may say that a majority of our committee are opposed to action at the present session for the reason that our time is taken up with the tariff bill and the banking and currency resolution is too difficult and delicate to be forced through congress under whip and spur."

FIFTY PER CENT DISCOUNT FOR TRUTH

Berkowitz and Sternberg, traveling salesmen, met on the train.

"I have just come from St. Louis, where I did a tremendous business," said Berkowitz. "How much do you think I sold?"

"How should I know?" replied Sternberg.

"Of course you don't know, but what do you guess?"

"Oh, about half."

"Half of what?"

"Why, half what you say."—Everybody's Magazine.